

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/756,782

Examiner

Jerry Martin Blevins

Applicant(s)

KNICKERBOCKER ET AL.

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed June 29, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 1/3/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


BRIAN HEALY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 8, the prior art, as best exemplified by US Pre Grant Publication to Dautartus et al., number 2003/0095759, teaches a method for making a ferrule (Figure 1A, element 120) for an optical fiber connector (page 3, paragraph 39) comprising the steps of: forming a plurality of greensheets from ceramic material (page 3, paragraph 39), stacking the plurality of greensheets together to a desired thickness having a top, bottom, front and rear sides and opposed sides (Figure 1A and page 3, paragraph 39), laminating the stack (page 3, paragraph 39), and sintering (firing) the laminating stack to form an optical connector ferrule (page 3, paragraph 39). Dautartus does not teach the step of forming optical fiber through openings in the stack extending through the top layer to the bottom layer in the desired pattern. Furthermore, Dautartus, either alone or in combination with the other prior art of record, does not disclose or render obvious the step of forming optical fiber through openings in the stack extending through the top layer to the bottom layer in the desired pattern.

Claims 9-15 are allowed based on dependence from allowed base claim 8.

Regarding claim 16, Dautartus teaches a method for making a ferrule (Figure 1A, element 120) for an optical fiber connector (page 3, paragraph 39) comprising the steps of: forming a plurality of ferrule layers from a ceramic material greensheet (page 3,

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paragraph 39), stacking the ferrule layers to a desired thickness having a top, bottom, front and rear sides and opposed sides (Figure 1A and page 3, paragraph 39), and securing the layers to hold the stack together (by laminating and firing, page 3, paragraph 39). Dautartus does not teach the step of forming optical fiber through openings in the stack extending through the top layer to the bottom layer in the desired pattern. Furthermore, Dautartus, either alone or in combination with the other prior art of record, does not disclose or render obvious the step of forming optical fiber through openings in the stack extending through the top layer to the bottom layer in the desired pattern.

Claims 17-19 are allowed based on their dependence from allowed base claim 16.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry Martin Blevins whose telephone number is 571-272-8581. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on 571-272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JMB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Healy", is written above the printed name.

BRIAN HEALY
PRIMARY EXAMINER